

NOTICE TO MARINERS

No.17 - 2008 PORT OF LIVERPOOL

LIFEBOAT DRILLS AND / OR INSPECTIONS

Master, Owners and Agents are reminded that all vessels in the Port of Liverpool wishing to conduct lifeboat drills or inspections may only do so with the agreement of the Harbour Master.

In recent years the Maritime Industry has suffered an unacceptably high number of accidents with lifeboats in which crew were injured, sometimes fatally, whilst participating in lifeboat drills and/or inspections.

In response to these concerns, the International Maritime Organization (IMO) has produced guidance relating to the safe servicing, maintenance and drilling of lifeboats.

In addition MSN 1803 highlights the most pertinent IMO guidance and also provides some additional guidance with respect to 5 yearly load testing on board UK vessels.

MSN 1803 is to be read in conjunction with the requirements of SOLAS Chapter III, with particular reference to Regulations 20 and 36, and also the requirements of the LSA Code, with particular reference to section 4.4.7.

Abandon ship drills should be planned, organised and performed so that the recognised risks are minimised and in accordance with relevant shipboard requirements of occupational health and safety.

Agreement with the Harbour Master may be sought by calling the relevant Dock Master by VHF radio prior to any lifeboat drill and /or inspection. This will enable vessels in the vicinity to be warned and will instigate a monitoring exercise by the Marine Operations Control Centre and the Port of Liverpool Police.

Captain S.F. Gallimore
Harbour Master
Peel Ports - Mersey

7th OCTOBER 2008